



USAID | UZBEKISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUCCESS STORY

New Methods Increase Yields

Using new technology, farmer increases his yield of grapes

This year, farmer Nabi Arslanov in Pop Rayon of Namangan Oblast, southern Uzbekistan, produced 30% more grapes from his land than any year before. Such increase resulted Nabi's participation in the USAID-funded Water Users Association Support Program (WUASP).



Nabi Arslanov and his family enjoy the new harvest of grapes in Pop Rayon of Namangan Oblast, Uzbekistan.

Nabi Arslanov has been growing grapes for over 30 years. Like other farmers in his water user association "Pungon," Nabi let his grapevines spread on the ground, and only lifted them during the harvest. His yields were steady, but never quite as high as he wished they were.

Then two years ago, Nabi's water user association began cooperating with the USAID-funded Water Users Association Support Program (WUASP). The program set up demonstration fields to demonstrate new grape-growing technologies to the farmers. In the demonstration field, Nabi saw how grapes are trained on trellises, so that the air can ventilate the plants, and the grapes can receive more sunlight, both critical components to successful grape production. The program also helped "Pungon" asso-

ciation to install new water gates, so that farmers can distribute water among the users more efficiently and optimize the irrigation of their fields.

Nabi decided to try the new method in his 2-hectare lot. Last spring, the USAID-funded project provided Nabi with 6,000 meters of steel wire and 100 poles, and Nabi constructed trellises for his grapevines. As the grapes began growing, his family arranged the vines on the trellises, so that the plants don't lie on the ground.

By the end of the season, Nabi harvested 13 tons of grapes from his two hectares of land – over 30% more than any other year. He exported 7 tons to Russia and sold the rest at the local market. "I made almost \$3,500 in profit, and used part of it to buy more trellises," says Nabi. "My family is very happy and very grateful to the program."

Next year, Nabi and other members of the association plan to continue investing in improved technologies and irrigation water management to further increase their harvests and incomes, as well as their livelihoods.

A USAID program introduces new techniques for growing fruits in Uzbekistan, helping generate higher incomes for the rural families.